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**DIGITAL
DOMAIN**

TIGHTROPE SYNOPSIS

Tightrope is a 5 minute, all CG-animated short film, written and directed by Daniel Robichaud, with Stephane Coutour and Bernd Angerer serving as lead animators. The film was produced by Scott Ross and Digital Domain. Edward Kummer was the film's executive producer, and Vala Runolfsson was associate producer.

The allegorical story finds our central character, The Jester moving along a tightrope through a mystical, cloud-like milieu. His open face reveals inquisitive eyes. For The Jester, life is a joy to behold.

Suddenly, he comes upon another man moving towards him -- on the same tightrope. The other man, The Suit, has an ominous gray demeanor. His face is obscured by a dark mask.

The Jester extends a hand in friendship which is rebuffed by The Suit -- who then attempts to knock The Jester off the tightrope.

The Jester reveals an assortment of magical tricks which he plays upon The Suit. Not to be outdone, The Suit responds with a desperate act which has possibly dire consequences for them both.

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TIGHTROPE

Daniel Robichaud

Director, writer

Upon graduation from the University of Quebec with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Graphic Design (1984), Daniel Robichaud went to work for the CBC (Canadian national television), joining the newly formed Computer Graphics Department. He went on to become an Art Director and created dozens of animated openings, earning several awards including the Gemeaux and two BDA awards. He was also a teacher at the renowned National Animation and Design Centre.

After nine years at the CBC, Robichaud accepted a position as Director of Animation at The Film & Tape Works in Chicago. He built an animation department and recruited a team of digital artists, directed commercials and developed independent animation projects.

In 1994, Robichaud moved to Los Angeles to work for Digital Domain as Digital Effects Supervisor. He contributed to such projects as "Apollo 13", "T2-3D" and "The Fifth Element". Robichaud established himself as one of the main leaders of Digital Domain's Character Animation Group, defining a truly unique animation style and technique. He was the Animation Supervisor on the Academy Award winning "Titanic", breaking new grounds in creating crowds of photo-realistic digital humans.

Scott Ross

Producer

Scott Ross is the CEO, President of Digital Domain, Inc., one of the largest full-service digital production studios in Los Angeles. Founded in April, 1993 by Ross, Academy Award-winning director/producer James Cameron, and four-time Academy Award-winning character/creature creator Stan Winston, with initial funding from IBM, and second-wave funding from Atlanta, Georgia-based Cox Enterprises, Digital Domain has established a world-class reputation for innovation and artistry.

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A native of New York City, Ross began his career in Media Studies at Hofstra University and graduated with a B.S. in Communication Arts in 1974. He returned to Hofstra, in June of 1997, when the university awarded him an honorary doctorate degree.

From the mid '70s until 1988 Ross served in various positions at One Pass Film and Video, San Francisco's seminal post-production company. His last position at One Pass was as the company's CEO. In 1988, Ross was recruited by Lucasfilm and became Industrial Light and Magic's General Manager. In 1991, the company reorganized and Ross was named VP of the LucasArts Entertainment Group which was comprised of Skywalker Sound, LucasArts Commercial Productions, LucasArts Attractions, Editdroid/Soundroid and ILM.

Digital Domain's recent work on director James Cameron's "Titanic," has received rave reviews internationally, including a special citation from the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures for "Outstanding Special Effects Technology", as well as the 1997 Oscar® for Best Visual Effects. "Titanic" is the highest-grossing film in motion picture history with worldwide receipts of over 1.8 billion dollars.

Digital Domain's work has been featured in such projects as "True Lies" (Academy Award® Nominee for Best Visual Effects), "Interview with the Vampire," "Apollo 13" (Academy Award® Nominee for Best Visual Effects and BAFTA Award-winner), "Dante's Peak," "The Fifth Element," The Rolling Stones' "Love Is Strong" (Grammy Award-winner); some of advertising's most memorable commercials (the Cannes Grand Prix winner Jeep "Snow Covered"; Budweiser "Frogs", "Ants" and "Clydesdales"; and Nike's "Virtual Andre," to name only a few); "Terminator 2-3D," the highest-rated attraction in Universal Studios Florida history; and "Barbie Fashion Designer" a co-venture with Mattel Media, one of the fastest selling titles in CD-ROM history.

Stephane Couture

Lead Character Animator

Stephane Couture began his career as a Graphic designer in 1989, in Quebec, Canada. Following graduation in 1992 from the National Animation and Design Center (NAD) in Montreal, Canada, he was hired as Animator at Cine-Groupe where he worked on television openings. He went on to work as Lead Animator at DHD Postimage, specializing in special effects

for television commercials.

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In 1994, RGA in Los Angeles recruited him as Lead Animator for projects such as "Mary Reilly" and "Mortal Kombat". Stephane subsequently worked as Animator for 20th Century Fox, on "Independence Day", and for Pacific Ocean Post on various independent projects. Since 1997, his career has brought him to Digital Domain where he worked as Character

Animator for "Titanic" and, the "Coca-Cola Panda" television commercial, to name a few. His latest creation as Character Animator and Animator Supervisor for Digital Domain is "Tightrope", a short-film entirely computer-animated.

Bernd Angerer

Lead Character Animator

Bernd Angerer started his career in 1987 in a small post-production studio in Vienna, Austria, where he worked as graphic artist mainly for TV-commercials and music videos.

After his first experiences with 2d cell animation he created the first fully cg animated commercial in Austria, "Jolly", and specialized himself in digital character animation. In 1996 he directed and animated "Der Winzer und der Wein", a completely computer-generated short video about the process of making wine, which was awarded by the Austrian Economic Association with the "Silver Saturn '97" for best industry video.

After successfully completing character-animations for the exhibition "Ostarrichi-1000 years Austria" and for an educational video about pregnancy and birth in 1996 he joined Digital Domain in 1997 to work on James Cameron's "Titanic", where he was lead character animator and responsible for the generation of numerous photo-real digital stunt animations.

Angerer then worked on the commercial Pepsi "Goose", which was awarded with the '98 Silver Clio for Best Visual Effects. In 1998, Angerer created a digitally produced fantasy bird for director Vincent Ward's "What Dreams may Come," and led the animation team for Coke "Jitterbug", another fully CG-generated commercial with 17 dancing virtual characters.

After finishing his work as animation supervisor on "Tightrope", he will supervise a commercial for Universal Studios Florida.